Hydrocarbon Deposits in the Cauvery Delta

584. SHRI O.S. MANIAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantum of hydrocarbon deposits in the Cauvery delta of Tamil Nadu as determined so far;

(b) how many years this deposit would last at the current rate of exploitation of oil and gas reserves; and

(c) whether Government propose to increase oil/gas production in Cauvery delta of Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The recoverable reserves of oil & gas as estimated on 1.4.96 is 4.31 MMt and 7.29 Billion Cu.m respectively in Cauvery onland basin.

(b) At the current rate of exploitation the oil reserves are likely to last till 2010—2011. However, the gas exploitaton scenario is dependent on consumer demand.

(c) Cauvery on-shore area is still under exploration and any progrmme for increasing oil/gas production from the area can be firmed up only after the results of further exploration.

Funds under OIDB Act, 1974

585. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the funds collected, till March, 1996, under various provisions of the Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB) Act, 1974;

(b) whether the above funds were meant for petroleum sector; if so, the funds received so far from OIDB in 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 against the requirement projected by the petroleum sector; and

(c) the reasons for the shortfall, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Government collected approximately Rs. 26,000/crores as cess upto the end of March, 1996.

(b) As per Section 16 of the Oil Industry Development Act, 1974, the cess is to be first credited to the Consolidated Fund of India and the Central Government may after due appropriation made by the Parliament by law in this regard pay to the Oil Industry Development Board such sums of money out of the proceeds of cess as the Government may think fit for beign utilised for the development of the Oil Industry, which, *inter-alia,* includes petroleum, petro-chemicals and fertilizers. The requirement of petroleum sector and the funds received by it from OIDB is given in the enclosed statement (*See* below).

(c) The shortfall in disbursement is due to the fact that some of the oil companies/grantee institutions did not draw the funds for which projections were made by them.

Statement

Funds received, agaisnt projected demands, by the Oil PSUs in the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96

(Rs. Crores)

Year	Projected by PSUs	Disbursed by OIDB
1993-94	973.45	926.35
1994-95	445.04	301.47
1995-96	1048.82	849.08

Cost Components of LPG Cylinders

586. SHRI SUDHIR RANJAN MAJUMDAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had accepted the Shantilal Shah Committee Report of 1969 on oil pricing, wherein the cost of